

our departing colleague Chet Holifield. He is a most special and most precious person. One cut out of no mold, but individually fashioned and endowed with inimitable style, extraordinary wisdom, inexhaustible energy, great physical stamina, and total perseverance of purpose.

The late Benjamin Rosenthal, a member and subcommittee chairman on the Government Operations Committee, paid this tribute to Chet:

His numerous achievements are far to many to chart or catalog. But it is a mark of Chet's distinguished career that those achievements resulted not so much from his House seniority as from his creative energies.

Chet and I have disagreed, from time to time, on certain public policy issues. But I know that his public positions were formulated with only one test in mind: Will the public interest benefit? Perhaps the greatest tribute I can pay him is that I will always remember him as a doer, an innovator, and a builder.

One person uniquely qualified to speak is our recently retired colleague Frank Horton. For 30 years, Frank was a member of the Committee on Government Operations. For 12 of those years, he and Chet served opposite each other as leaders of their parties either on Chet's subcommittee or on the full committee. They dealt with issues before the committee in full bipartisanship. Frank has stated that their relationship grew as close as father and son. Chet, he said, treated him, and I can quote him, "like he was my father." Out of this hard work together, many of the great and lasting accomplishments of the committee became realities. They include creation of the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, the landmark 1973 Report of the Commission on Federal Procurement, on which both Frank and Chet served as members, and the Report of the Commission on Federal Paperwork, which Frank himself chaired.

Addressing the House on December 20, 1974, Frank remarked about Chet:

During 32 years of service to his constituents and to America and mankind, he has shown himself to be fair, compassionate, objective, hard-working, and brilliant. He more than any man I know, has lived his principles each day of his life. He is true to his family, to his country and to his ideals.

Evidence of Chet's hard work and iron purpose is found in Frank's statement that at his prime as chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Chet was the most knowledgeable layman in the country concerning atomic energy.

But I want to return to Frank's remarks to the House and conclude. It is good to listen to this deeply felt encomium, which speaks movingly to the virtues and principles of Chet Holifield as well as to virtues and principles to which all of us as legislators are called.

Mr. Speaker, there are few combinations of people in human experience who get to know each other better than the chairman and ranking minority member of a committee—who must work day-in day-out to solve problems on issues, and to forge compromises on bills in the heat of pressure and controversy.

For all my 12 years in the House, it has been my privilege to serve with Chet on the Government Operations Committee. Ten of those years have been spent serving opposite each other as leaders of our parties in subcommittee, and 2 of those years, during this

Congress, we led the full committee together.

It would be impossible to sum up what this experience has meant to me, or to describe my respect for the man. Let me only say that I have never worked with any person who approached the needs of the public more objectively or keenly, or who was so devoid of selfishness or of either partisan or other prejudice. Chet Holifield, the legislator, comes as close as any man to the ideals Americans look to in a Congressman. He understands what the public interest is, and he puts it first—always. All other considerations, however worthy or tempting, however much easier they may be to serve, come second.

POVERTY DATA IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing legislation that will help Congress target billions of dollars annually in Federal program funds to populations most in need, as well as measure the effectiveness of public assistance programs in a timely way.

The Poverty Data Improvement Act passed the House unanimously in November, 1993. The bill requires the Census Bureau to produce and publish poverty estimates for States, counties, cities and school districts every 2 years. Currently, the only source of reliable poverty data below the national level is the decennial census. According to the General Accounting Office, \$22 billion is allocated through 19 Federal grant programs each year to State and local governments based on those poverty figures.

Clearly, the infrequent production of small area poverty data has undermined the ability of many critical Federal programs to reach their target populations effectively. As Federal dollars become more scarce in the effort to balance the budget, it will be even more important to ensure that these programs are serving communities that are most in need. Concentrations of poverty are not stagnant over the course of a decade. The movement of lower-income populations into rapidly growing areas, as well as the abandonment of older cities by the middle class, causes a shift in demographic patterns that must be measured more often than once every 10 years.

A notable case in point is the title 1 grant program for elementary and secondary schools, which Congress reauthorized as part of the Improving America's Schools Act in the 103d Congress. The 1990 census income data, which reflects 1989 economic conditions, was used for the first time to allocate title 1 funds in the 1993-94 school year. At their best, the figures were 4 to 5 years old. And the year before that, 1980 census data—reflecting 1979 income—was still being used to allocate title 1 funds. Imagine using figures that are nearly 14 years old to allocate nearly \$7 billion to counties and school districts across the country. How can we have any confidence that those funds are reaching children and schools that need the most help?

Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on the Poverty Data Improvement Act in the last Congress. But Congress saw the folly in relying on outdated poverty numbers to develop and administer important programs such as chapter

1, the Job Training Partnership Act, Community Development Block Grants, and rural housing programs, to name a few. In its reauthorization of the title 1 program, Congress called for the use of updated county poverty estimates by 1996 and updated school district poverty estimates by 1998, in allocating program funds. We also asked the National Academy of Sciences to undertake a multi-year study of the Census Bureau's effort to produce poverty estimates for States, counties, cities and school districts every 2 years. Timely data are an important factor in policy development, but it's also important for policymakers to have confidence in the numbers on which they rely.

To its credit, the Census Bureau has recognized the critical policy need for more frequent poverty numbers below the national level. The Bureau has started the research and development phase of its small area poverty estimates program, and reports that it is on schedule to release poverty figures for States and counties in the fall of 1996.

Given the significant amount of taxpayer dollars that are distributed according to poverty data, the Census Bureau's effort is a bargain. In fiscal years 1994 and 1995, the Bureau will spend \$600,000 per year to develop its first intercensal poverty numbers. In subsequent years, the annual cost will rise to approximately \$800,000, with additional costs likely to produce poverty estimates for school districts. Nevertheless, that's far less than a hundredth of a percent of the funds allocated each year on the basis of that data.

The Poverty Data Improvement Act addresses one important element of a growing debate about the accuracy of data we use for Federal program purposes. That element is the question of timeliness. Data that are old may look precise, but they simply aren't accurate.

The bill does not address broader—and very legitimate—concerns about the way we define poverty. In fact, today we are using definitions that were developed nearly 30 years ago. Fortunately, the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences is completing a comprehensive study of the definition of poverty. That study includes a review of consumption patterns, differences in cost of living across geography, and the effect of noncash benefits on living standards. The academy expects to release its findings and recommendations in May.

Mr. Speaker, we need the capacity to identify demographic and economic forces that are changing more rapidly than our ability to measure them using traditional data collection methods. Accurate, useful, and timely data can serve as a solid foundation on which to build sound and cost-effective programs. The Poverty Data Improvement Act represents an important start toward achieving that goal. I urge my colleagues to support this worthwhile legislation.

BACK-TO-BASICS CRIME BILL

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the 40th day of our Contract With

America. House Republicans have accomplished more to combat crime in 40 days than the Democrats have in the last 40 years. We are committed to keeping our promises.

Republicans promised to strike at the heart of violent crime. We are working to pass our back-to-basic crime bill which provides the tools necessary to fight crime and keep criminals behind bars.

The Republican crime package handcuffs criminals and releases resources to combat crime. We are replacing the revolving door with a trap door and making our streets safe for law abiding citizens.

American taxpayers will no longer pay for a criminal justice system that fails to put and keep criminals behind bars. Today we will work to deport criminal aliens and free up scarce prison space. In addition, I look forward to giving local law enforcement the flexibility they need to use their resources most effectively.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are waiting for action. Violent crime will no longer be tolerated. We must act now to give the police the tools necessary to catch criminals and the space they need to keep them where they belong—behind bars.

LULAC NATIONAL WEEK

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the League of United Latin American Citizens as they celebrate the week of the 12th through the 18th of February, 1995, as LULAC National Week.

LULAC, the oldest and largest Hispanic volunteer organization in the country, is an American success story. More than 110,000 members in 45 States have reaped the benefits of this exemplary organization since 1929.

This week honors the LULAC experience. From its roots in promoting civil rights to its activities in providing equal access to educational opportunities for all Hispanic-Americans, LULAC is committed to the promise of Hispanics in America.

This week we observe and honor the benefits of LULAC which include economic development, housing, education, employment, civil rights, and business development. My congressional district includes many LULAC chapters all striving to address the many complex issues impacting Hispanics at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, as LULAC celebrates its legacy this week, the organization is seen as an integral part of the American mosaic. Since 1929, LULAC has endured with honor and a proven record of success. Its proud supporters include the public and private sectors and other volunteer organizations. Today, its proudest supporters, the members themselves, look to the future for more of the same. LULAC has earned the support and respect of the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, due to prior travel commitments I missed the final vote on H.R. 668. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

READ A BOOK OR GO TO JAIL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in the February 5 issue of Parade Magazine there is an excellent article by Michael Ryan about the sort of program we all describe as something we would to see, but are rarely able to point to in fact.

The program in question is one which seeks to keep repeat criminals from committing further crimes, by a program which involves repeat offenders in an extensive reading program.

Of course no program is perfect, and in 4 years this program has seen 19 percent of the participants rearrested. But as the article points out, the statistical expectation is that, absent this program, a far higher percentage of these participants would have been arrested again—one study showed that 45 percent would be the expected figure.

The moving force in this program is Prof. Robert Waxler of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. I have myself benefited in my job from the enthusiasm and knowledge that Professor Waxler brings to the task of educating young people, because he is an active and creative member of the southeastern Massachusetts community. But I ask that this article be reprinted here not because of my admiration for Professor Waxler but because it is an interesting example of how creative work on the local level can help us improve our efforts to reduce the crime which is a continuing social problem.

Professor Waxler, and Judge Robert Kane, who has used his judicial position to launch this program, deserve a great deal of credit. And I am glad that Parade Magazine highlighted their work, and I hope that other areas will profit by their example. To further that prospect, I submit this article from Parade magazine to be reprinted here.

[From Parade Magazine, Feb. 5, 1995]

THESE REPEAT OFFENDERS HAD A CHOICE:

READ A BOOK—OR GO TO JAIL

(By Michael Ryan)

Every university has students like Don Ross: bright individuals whose imaginations have caught fire with learning.

"Yesterday, everybody at my job was talking about Deliverance." Ross told me one afternoon at the University of Massachusetts campus at Dartmouth, Mass., near Cape Cod. He recently had read James Dickey's novel, a riveting tale of survival. "I started talking about how the characters related to each other, and everybody looked at me and went, 'Whoa.' They were talking about the movie, which was on TV."

Ross, 27, tells this joke on himself with good humor, as amused with his newfound

interest in literature as anyone else. The interest has unusual roots. In January 1992, a judge in nearly New Bedford offered him a choice: Go to school and read books—or go to jail.

"This was an experiment," said District Court Judge Robert Kane, 47. "I had no confidence that it would work, but I had sufficient despair in the way we had always done things." "We were seeing this same faces over and over," added Wayne St. Pierre, 39, the probation officer who helps screen candidates for the program. Don Ross is one of just 100 repeat offenders who have entered the program. (His last offense involved the illegal use of uninsured automobiles.)

In the four years that the literature seminar has been in operation, 19 percent of its participants have been rearrested. A recent study by professors at the University of Indiana and UMass Dartmouth found that 45 percent of a similar group (matched by age, race, income, neighborhood and offense) had returned to crime. In other words, the convicts in the program were less than half as likely to commit new crimes as those not in the program.

"I have always believed in the transformative power of stories," Prof. Robert Waxler, 50, told me. "They allow us to hold up a mirror to ourselves." A professor of English at UMass Dartmouth, he thought this power might help in rehabilitating criminals. One day, he brought up the idea with Judge Kane, his tennis partner. "He was very receptive to the idea," Waxler recalled.

Waxler volunteered to lead a 12-week literature seminar. His only stipulation that the convicts be fairly serious offenders. "The average participant has 16 prior offenses," said St. Pierre.

The group first reads a simple short story. Then, every other week for three months, they read novels of increasing complexity and meet for two-hour discussions. Only about half of the participants have completed high school or earned GED's, but Waxler gives them serious reading, such as Jack London's Sea Wolf and Russell Banks Affliction.

St. Pierre thinks that the challenge is part of the success. "I come from an athletic background," he said. "I know that when you have a tough coach who pushes you beyond what you think you can do, the rewards are much greater. That's what happens here."

"When I first designed this, I looked for materials that would address issues of identity, of violence, of the individual's relationship to society," Waxler explained. "Often, that pushes everybody to an understanding of where they fall in relation to that character."

"I related to Wolf Larsen in Sea Wolf," said Manuel Amaral, 35, a former drug addict and small-time dealer. The Larsen character is a brutal ship's captain who meets a grisly end. "I was like him," said Amaral. "Reading about it opened my mind." Amaral is now drug-free and a student at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass.

The reading program has benefited more than the defendants. Along with Waxler and some of his colleagues, St. Pierre attends every session and does all of the reading. Judge Kane also attends but begins with the third session to avoid intimidating students.

"One night, we were reading Norman Mailer's An American Dream," the judge recalled. "There's a scene between a judge and a prostitute, and the people in the course started talking about the misuse of judicial power. I realized that it was important that I hear that. It has made me more expansive."

Mark MacMullen, 40, also was a drug abuser. Now he is a full-time student at